

Fab Fantasy Picks: July - December

JULY 11, 2024 (one week later in July due to 4th holiday)

Five Broken Blades (Deluxe Ltd Edition) by Mai Corland

\$32.99 Book club price: \$29.69 - 9781649376909 Hardcover, 512 pp

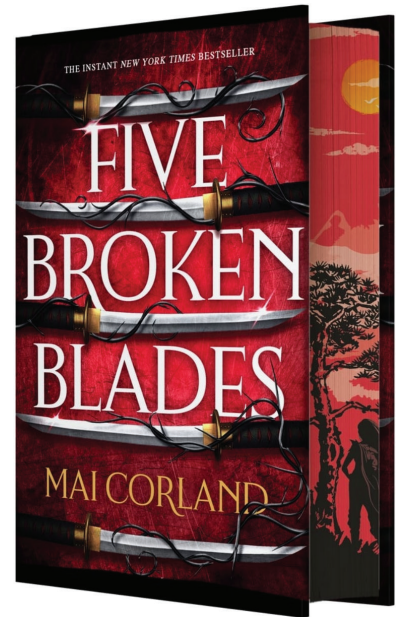
<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781649376909>

It's the season for treason...The king of Yusan must die.

The five most dangerous liars in the land have been mysteriously summoned to work together for a single objective: to kill the god king Joon. He has it coming. Under his merciless immortal hand, the nobles flourish, while the poor and innocent are imprisoned, ruined...or sold.

And now each of the five blades will come for him. Each has tasted bitterness--from the hired hit man seeking atonement, a lovely assassin who seeks freedom, or even the prince banished for his cruel crimes. None can resist the sweet, icy lure of vengeance. They can agree on murder.

They can agree on treachery. But for these five killers--each versed in deception, lies, and betrayal--it's not enough to forge an alliance. To survive, they'll have to find a way to trust each other...but only one can take the crown. Let the best liar win.



"This dazzling fantasy has it all: a richly developed world, a captivating ensemble cast, and a twisty, action-packed quest."

--Karen M. McManus, #1 New York Times bestselling author of One of Us Is Lying

"The heist is suspenseful, the characters are well-shaded, and the world is richly imagined. Skillfully combining espionage, fantasy, romance, and a quest for justice, this marks Corland as an exciting new voice." **--Publishers Weekly**

AUGUST 1, 2024

Foul Days by Genoveva Dimova

\$17.99 Book club price: \$16.19 - 9781250877314 Paperback, 368 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781250877314>

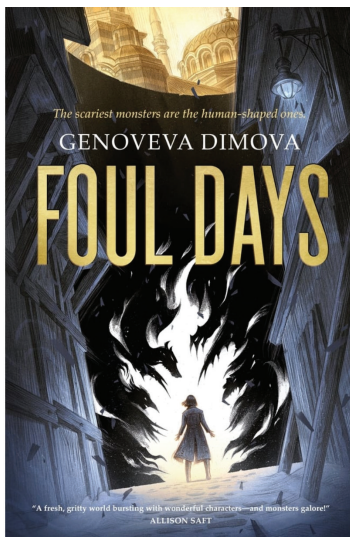
The Witcher meets Naomi Novik in this fast-paced fantasy rooted in Slavic folklore, from an assured new voice in genre fiction. As a witch in the walled city of Chernograd, Kosara has plenty of practice treating lycanthrope bites, bargaining with kikimoras, and slaying bloodsucking upirs. There's only one monster she can't defeat: her ex, the Zmey, known as the Tsar of Monsters. She's defied him one too many times and now he's hunting her. Betrayed by someone close to her, Kosara's only choice is to trade her shadow--the source of her powers--for a quick escape. Unfortunately, Kosara soon develops the deadly sickness that plagues shadowless witches--and only reclaiming her magic can cure her. To find it, she's forced to team up with a suspiciously honorable detective. Even worse, all the clues point in a single direction: To get her shadow back, Kosara will have to face the Foul Days' biggest threats without it. And she's only got twelve days. But in a

city where everyone is out for themselves, who can Kosara trust to assist her in outwitting the biggest monster from her past?

"A sure-footed, swift-paced race against time, Foul Days brings Slavic folklore to terrifying life. This is a brilliant modern fantasy that's not afraid to show its teeth." **--Ed McDonald, author of The Redwinter Chronicles**

"Foul Days is an incredible story filled with monsters and magic which deserves not only to be read, but savored."

--Maelan Holladay, author of The Storm Gathers



Fab Fantasy Picks: July - December

SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

The Bright Sword by Lev Grossman (signed copies available too!)

\$35.00 Book club price: \$31.50 - 9780735224049 Hardcover, 688 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780735224049>

A Today.com & Lit Hub Most Anticipated Book of 2024

The #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Magicians trilogy returns with a triumphant reimagining of the King Arthur legend for the new millennium

A gifted young knight named Collum arrives at Camelot to compete for a spot on the Round Table, only to find that he's too late. The king died two weeks ago at the Battle of Camlann, leaving no heir, and only a handful of the knights of the Round Table survive.

They aren't the heroes of legend, like Lancelot or Gawain. They're the oddballs of the Round Table, from the edges of the stories, like Sir Palomides, the Saracen Knight, and Sir Dagonet, Arthur's fool, who was knighted as a joke. They're joined by Nimue, who was Merlin's apprentice until she turned on him and buried him under a hill. Together this ragtag fellowship will set out to rebuild Camelot in a world that has lost its balance.

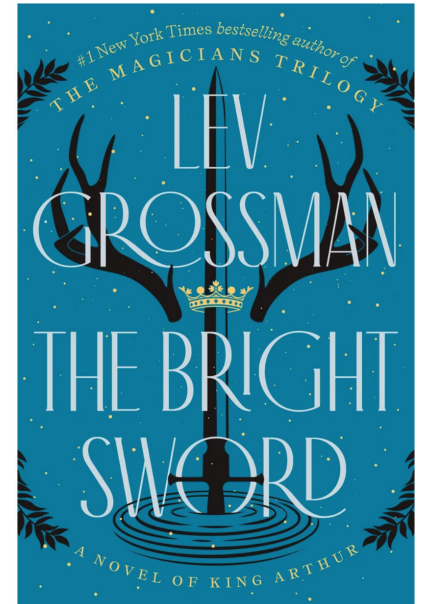
But Arthur's death has revealed Britain's fault lines. God has abandoned it, and the fairies and monsters and old gods are returning, led by Arthur's half-sister Morgan le Fay. Kingdoms are turning on each other, warlords lay siege to Camelot and rival factions are forming around the disgraced Lancelot and the fallen Queen Guinevere. It is up to Collum and his companions to reclaim Excalibur, solve the mysteries of this ruined world and make it whole again. But before they can restore Camelot they'll have to learn the truth of why the lonely, brilliant King Arthur fell, and lay to rest the ghosts of his troubled family and of Britain's dark past..

"For anyone who's ever craved a seat at the Round Table. Utterly enchanting."

--Rebecca Yarros, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Fourth Wing* and *Iron Flame*

*"If you love King Arthur as much as I do, you'll love Lev Grossman's *The Bright Sword*, a fresh and engrossing take on the Matter of Britain featuring a colorful cast of Round Table knights who don't often get as much story time as they deserve. The creator of *The Magicians* has woven another spell."*

--George R. R. Martin, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *A Game of Thrones*



OCTOBER 3, 2024

The Games Gods Play (Deluxe Ltd Edition) by Abigail Owen

\$32.99 Book club price: \$29.69 - 97816493765654 Hardcover, 592 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/97816493765654>

This gorgeous new release features gorgeous sprayed edges with stenciled artwork, as well as exclusive endpapers and special design features. This breathtaking collectible is only available on a limited first print run, a must-have for any book lover while supplies last in the US and Canada only.

The gods of myth are alive and well. Once every century, they select a new ruler in a cutthroat competition, pushing mortal players to the limit. But this year, Hades is done sitting on the sidelines. And he's picking a champion no one expects--in this modern mythic romantasy, she'll fight for her life...for the god of Death.

Fab Fantasy Picks: July - December

NOVEMBER 7, 2024

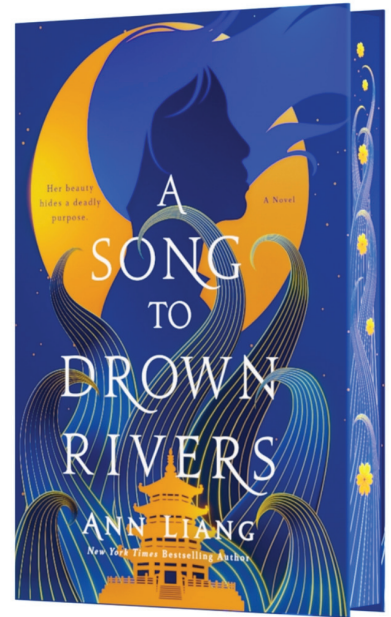
A Song to Drown Rivers (Deluxe Ltd Edition) by Ann Liang

\$32.00 Book club price: \$28.80 - 9781250289469 Hardcover, 336 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781250289469>

Inspired by the legend of Xishi, one of the famous Four Beauties of Ancient China, *A Song to Drown Rivers* is an epic historical fantasy about womanhood, war, sacrifice, and love against all odds as the fate of two kingdoms hangs in a delicate balance. Her beauty hides a deadly purpose.

Xishi's beauty is seen as a blessing to the villagers of Yue--convinced that the best fate for a girl is to marry well and support her family. When Xishi draws the attention of the famous young military advisor, Fanli, he presents her with a rare opportunity: to use her beauty as a weapon. One that could topple the rival neighboring kingdom of Wu, improve the lives of her people, and avenge her sister's murder. All she has to do is infiltrate the enemy palace as a spy, seduce their immoral king, and weaken them from within. Trained by Fanli in everything from classical instruments to concealing emotion, Xishi hones her beauty into the perfect blade. But she knows Fanli can see through every deception she masters, the attraction between them burning away any falsehoods. Once inside the enemy palace, Xishi finds herself under the hungry gaze of the king's advisors while the king himself shows her great affection. Despite his gentleness, a brutality lurks and Xishi knows she can never let her guard down. But the higher Xishi climbs in the Wu court, the farther she and Fanli have to fall--and if she is unmasked as a traitor, she will bring both kingdoms down.



"Stunning and heart-rending." --**Chloe Gong, #1 bestselling author of *Immortal Longings***

DECEMBER 5, 2024

Blood Over Bright Haven by M. L. Wang

\$29.99 Book club price: \$26.99 - 9780593873359 Paperback, 448 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780593873359>

The first woman ever admitted to a prestigious order of mages unravels a secret conspiracy that could change the practice of magic forever, in this standalone dark fantasy from the author of *The Sword of Kaigen*.

The stunning first edition hardcover will feature red stained edges, gold and red foil on the jacket, a full-color endpaper map, and an interior illustration of an in-world magical item

For twenty years, Sciona has devoted every waking moment to the study of magic, fueled by a mad desire to achieve the impossible: to be the first woman ever admitted to the High Magistracy at the University of Magics and Industry.

When Sciona finally passes the qualifying exam and becomes a highmage, she finds her challenges have just begun. Her new colleagues are determined to make her feel unwel-

come--and, instead of a qualified lab assistant, they give her a janitor.

What neither Sciona nor her peers realize is that her taciturn assistant was not always a janitor. Ten years ago, he was a nomadic hunter who lost his family on their perilous journey from the wild plains to the city. But now he sees the opportunity to understand the forces that decimated his tribe, drove him from his homeland, and keep the privileged in power.

At first, mage and outsider have a fractious relationship. But working together, they uncover an ancient secret that could change the course of magic forever--if it doesn't get them killed first.



Thrill in the 'Ville Picks: July - December

JULY 16, 2024 (one week later in July due to 4th holiday)

The Good Ones by Polly Stewart

\$18.99 Book club price: \$17.09 - 9780063234161 Paperback, 304 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780063234161>

A Today.com & Lit Hub Most Anticipated Book of 2024

An engrossing work of literary suspense that illuminates the push and pull of female friendship and the costs of being good when the rules for women begin to chafe.

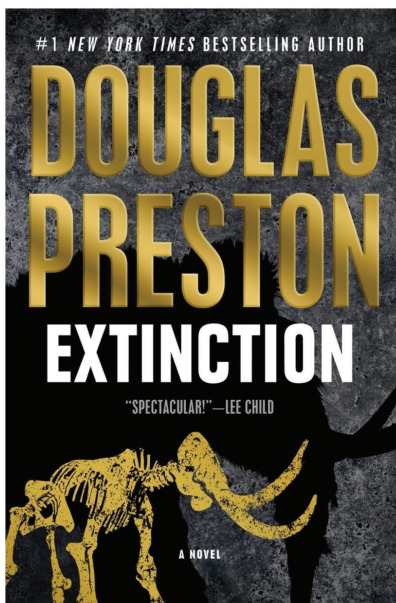
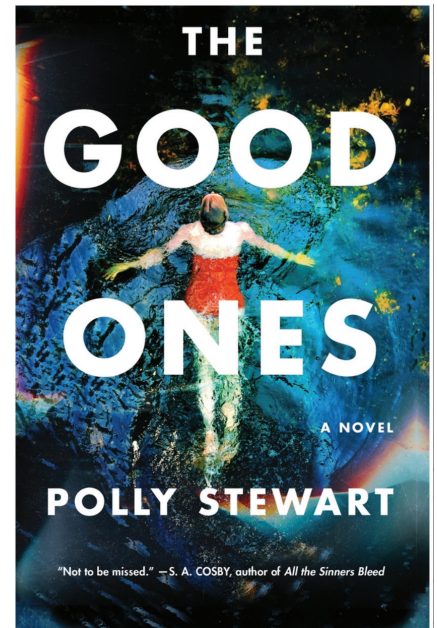
The last time Nicola Bennett saw Lauren Ballard she was scraping a key along the side of a new cherry-red Chevy Silverado. That was the night before her friend mysteriously vanished from her home, leaving a bloodstained washcloth and signs of a struggle--as well as her grieving husband and young daughter--behind.

Now, nearly twenty years later, Nicola, newly unemployed and still haunted by the disappearance of her childhood friend, is returning to her Appalachian hometown. For Nicola, Tyndall County has remained frozen in time. Everywhere she turns she's reminded of Lauren. Yet shockingly, her former friends and neighbors have all moved on. Drawn to stories of missing girls, Nicola obsessively searches the internet, hoping to discover a clue to Lauren's ultimate fate.

Driven by a desperate need to know what happened to her friend, Nicola takes a job in her hometown, determined to uncover any bit of information, any small clue, that can help. Deep down she knows the answers are tucked in the hollows and valleys of this small Blue Ridge county. As secrets come to light and the truth begins to unravel, will Nicola finally find release and break free of the past--or lose herself completely to unanswered questions from her adolescence?

*"Polly Stewart's **The Good Ones** is a fantastic achievement. A classic Southern Gothic tale told through the prism of modern-day sensibilities. Not to be missed."* --**S. A. Cosby, New York Times bestselling author of *Razorblade Tears***

*"A riveting, unflinching exploration of adolescent female friendships, small-town pressures to conform, and the true crime lover's tendency to conflate empathy and voyeurism, **The Good Ones** drew me in from the first lines and still hasn't released me, days after finishing."* --**Katie Gutierrez, nationally bestselling author of *More Than You'll Ever Know***



AUGUST 13, 2024

Extinction by Douglas Preston

\$29.99 Book club price: \$26.99 - 9780765317704 Hardcover, 384 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780765317704>

With *Extinction*, #1 New York Times bestselling author Douglas Preston has written a page-turning thriller in the Michael Crichton mode that explores the possible and unintended dangers of the very real efforts to resurrect the woolly mammoth and other long-extinct animals.

Erebus Resort, occupying a magnificent, hundred-thousand acre valley deep in the Colorado Rockies, offers guests the experience of viewing woolly mammoths, Irish Elk, and giant ground sloths in their native habitat, brought back from extinction through the magic of genetic manipulation. When a billionaire's son and his new wife are kidnapped and murdered in the Erebus back country by what is assumed to be a gang of eco-terrorists, Colorado Bureau of Investigation Agent Frances Cash partners with county sheriff James Colcord to track down the perpetrators.

Thrill in the 'Ville Picks: July - December

SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

What Have You Done? by Shari Lapena

\$30.00 Book club price: \$27.00 - 9780593489963 Hardcover, 320 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780593489963>

Dark - Addictive - Twisty - Chilling - Domestic Suspense

"Lapena is a master of manipulation." --USA Today

The new unputdownable novel from the "queen of the one-sit read," and New York Times bestselling author of *The Couple Next Door*

Nothing ever happens in sleepy little Fairhill, Vermont. But this morning that will change. And one innocent question could be deadly. What have you done?

The teenagers get their kicks telling ghost stories in the old graveyard. The parents trust their kids will arrive home safe from school. Everyone knows everyone. Curtains rarely twitch. Front doors are left unlocked.

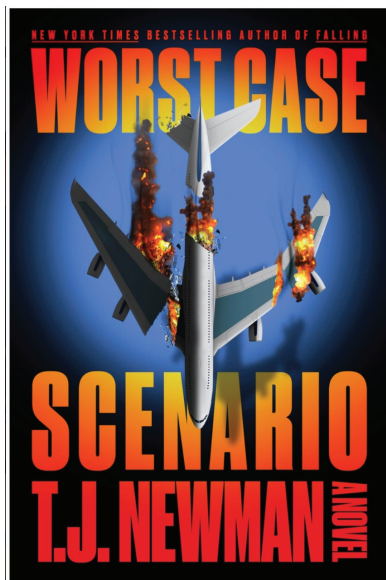
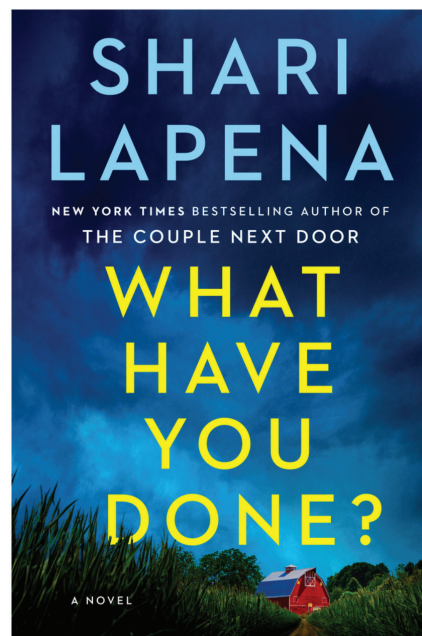
But Diana Brewer isn't lying safely in her bed where she belongs. Instead she lies in a hayfield, circled by vultures, discovered by a local farmer.

How quickly a girl becomes a ghost. How quickly a town of friendly, familiar faces becomes a town of suspects, a place of fear and paranoia.

Someone in Fairhill did this. Everyone wants answers. .

"Shari Lapena is rapidly becoming an international phenomenon..Everyone Here Is Lying is the best of her seven works. It begins with a bang and ends with a twist no one will guess. In between, there are clues, lies, intrigue and a lot of well-drawn characters doing nasty things." --The Globe and Mail

"A safe neighborhood, a missing child, and a whole host of parents protecting children, wives protecting husbands, and nefarious and shady characters hiding in plain sight. I loved it!" --CrimeReads



OCTOBER 8, 2024

Worst Case Scenario by T. J. Newman

\$30.00 Book club price: \$27.00 - 9780593873359 Hardcover, 336 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780593873359>

When a pilot suffers a heart attack at 35,000 feet, a commercial airliner filled with passengers crashes into a nuclear power plant in the small town of Waketa, Minnesota, which becomes ground zero for a catastrophic national crisis with global implications. The International Nuclear Event Scale tracks nuclear disasters. It has seven levels. Level 7 is a Major Accident, with only two on record: Fukushima and Chernobyl. There has never been a Level 8. Until now.

In this heart-stopping thriller, ordinary people--power plant employees, firefighters, teachers, families, neighbors, and friends-- are thrust into an extraordinary situation as they face the ultimate test of their lives. It will take the combined courage, ingenuity, and determination of a brave few to save not only their community and loved ones, but the fate of humanity at large.

T.J. Newman is a former bookseller and flight attendant whose first novel, *Falling*, became a publishing sensation and debuted at number two on the New York Times bestseller list. The book was named a best book of the year by USA Today, Esquire, and Amazon, among many others, and will soon be a major motion picture from Universal Pictures. T.J. lives in Phoenix, Arizona. Her second novel, *Drowning*, became an instant New York Times bestseller.

Thrill in the 'Ville Picks: July - December

NOVEMBER 12, 2024

All the Colors of the Dark by Chris Whitaker

\$30.00 Book club price: \$27.00 - 9780593798874 Hardcover, 608 pp

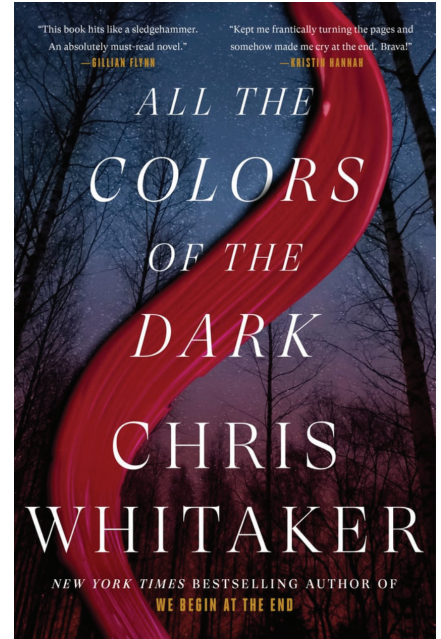
<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780593798874>

From the New York Times bestselling author of *We Begin at the End* comes a soaring thriller and an epic love story that spans decades.

1975 is a time of change in America. The Vietnam War is ending. Muhammad Ali is fighting Joe Frazier. And in the small town of Monta Clare, Missouri, girls are disappearing.

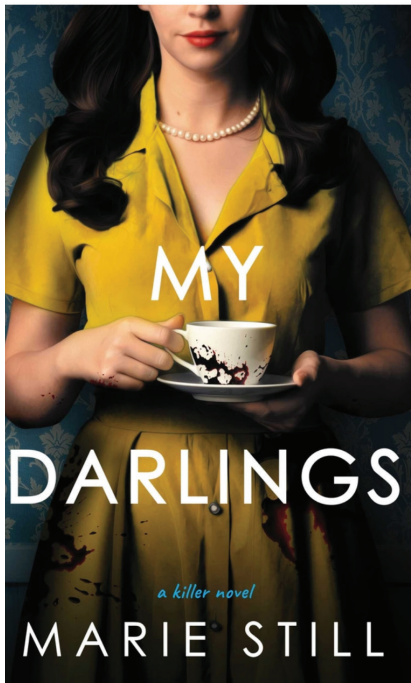
When the daughter of a wealthy family is targeted, the most unlikely hero emerges--Patch, a local boy, who saves the girl, and, in doing so, leaves heartache in his wake. Patch and those who love him soon discover that the line between triumph and tragedy has never been finer. And that their search for answers will lead them to truths that could mean losing one another.

A missing person mystery, a serial killer thriller, a love story, a unique twist on each, Chris Whitaker has written a novel about what lurks in the shadows of obsession and the blinding light of hope.



*"This book hits like a sledgehammer...An absolutely must-read novel."--Gillian Flynn, author of *Gone Girl**

*"Kept me frantically turning the pages and somehow made me cry at the end . . . Brava!"--Kristin Hannah, author of *The Women**



DECEMBER 10, 2024

My Darlings by Marie Still

\$18.99 Book club price: \$17.09 - 9781998076406 Paperbackr, 336 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781998076406>

ABC's *DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES* meets HBO's *DEXTER*, *MY DARLINGS*, a chilling suburban noir set in the deceptively serene Washington D.C. suburbs, where a respected philanthropist and PTO president's secret life as a serial killer enthralls readers seeking a deep, psychological thrill.

No one was supposed to know. I've always been so careful. *My Darlings*, how did we get here? Evil lurks behind the perfectly manicured lawns, ornate iron gates, and long winding driveways of affluent DC-but not for long.

Stay-at-home mom Eloise Williams is PTO president and a respected local philanthropist who sits on the boards of many distinguished charities. In addition to being a doting wife and mother, she is also a serial killer. But Eloise isn't the only lady in society playing a part. As the hidden lives of Eloise's inner circle are exposed, the body count rises. When stalkers becomes prey, Eloise desperately clings to control. Money and power can only buy influence and safety for so long. Eventually, the curtains lift, exposing the chilling reality hiding in plain sight.

*Sharp and disturbing, MY DARLINGS is the perfect mash-up of the Bravo network and the serial killers that we never see coming. --Elle Marr, Amazon Charts bestselling author of *The Alone Time* and *Your Dark Secrets**

Living Large Picks: July - December

JULY 30, 2024 (one week later in July due to 4th holiday)

In the Hour of Crows by Dana Elmendorf

\$28.99 Book club price: \$26.09 - 9780778310495 Hardcover, 288 pp

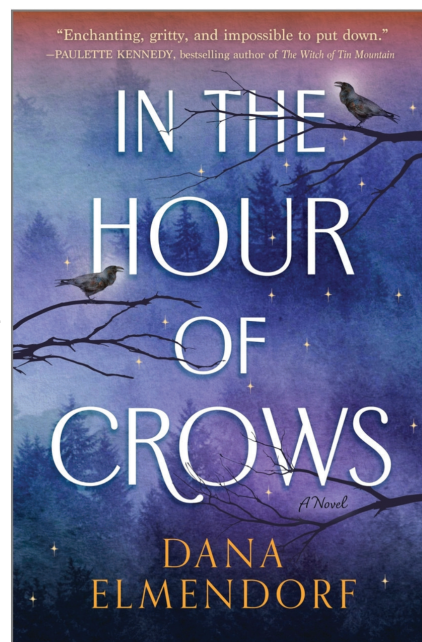
<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780778310495>

Sensational southern gothic! In a small town in Appalachia, people paint their doorways blue to keep spirits away. Black ferns grow where death will follow. And Weatherly Opal Wilder is a Death Talker.

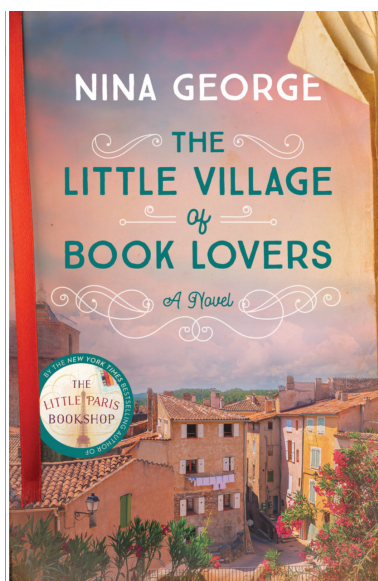
When called upon, she can talk the death out of the dying and save their lives--only once, never twice. But this truly unique gift comes at a price, rooting Weatherly to people who only want her around when they need her and resent her unfamiliar ways when they don't.

Weatherly's cousin Adaire also has a gift: she's a Scryer and can see the future reflected back in dark surfaces. Right before she is killed in an accident, Adaire saw something unnerving, and that's why Weatherly believes she was murdered--never thinking for a moment that it was an accident. But when Weatherly, for the first time, is unable to talk the death out of the mayor's son, the whole town suspects she is out for revenge, that she wouldn't save him.

With the help of clues Adaire left behind and her family's Granny Witch recipe box, Weatherly sets out to find the truth behind her cousin's death, whatever it takes. Imbued with magic, witchery, and suspense, Dana Elmendorf's *In the Hour of Crows* is a thrilling tale of friendship, identity, and love. .



"In the Hour of Crows enchants with its haunting plot and vivid prose, offering a compelling exploration of the human spirit against the backdrop of Appalachia's mystique." --**Booklist**



AUGUST 27, 2024

The Little Village of Book Lovers by Nina George

\$18.00 Book club price: \$16.20 - 9780593157909 Paperback, 272 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780593157909>

In Nina George's New York Times bestseller *The Little Paris Bookshop*, beloved literary apothecary Jean Perdu is inspired to create a floating bookstore after reading a seminal pseudonymous novel about a young woman with a remarkable gift. *The Little Village of Book Lovers* is that novel.

"Everyone knows me, but none can see me. I'm that thing you call love."

In a little town in the south of France in the 1960s, a dazzling encounter with Love itself changes the life of infant orphan Marie-Jeanne forever.

As a girl, Marie-Jeanne realizes that she can see the marks Love has left on the people around her--tiny glowing lights on the faces and hands that shimmer more brightly when the one meant for them is near. Before long, Marie-Jeanne is playing matchmaker, bringing true loves together in her village.

As she grows up, Marie-Jeanne helps her foster father, Francis, begin a mobile library that travels throughout the many small mountain towns in the region of Nyons. She finds herself bringing soulmates together every place they go--and there are always books that play a pivotal role in that quest. However, the only person that Marie-Jeanne can't seem to find a soulmate for is herself. She has no glow of her own, though she waits and waits for it to appear. Everyone must have a soulmate, surely--but will Marie-Jeanne be able to recognize hers when Love finally comes her way? .

Living Large Picks: July - December

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

The Bookbinder by Pip Williams

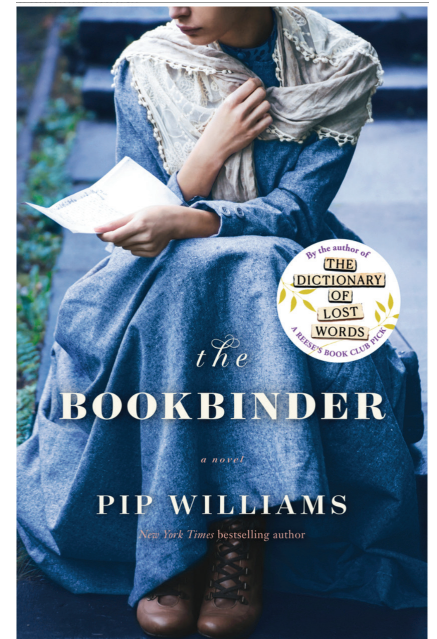
\$28.00 Book club price: \$25.20 - 9780593600467 Hardcover, 464 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780593600467>

A young British woman working in a book bindery gets a chance to pursue knowledge and love when World War I upends her life in this new novel from the NYT bestselling author of the Reese's Book Club pick *The Dictionary of Lost Words*. It is 1914, and as the war draws the young men of Britain away to fight, women must keep the nation running. Two of those women are Peggy and Maude, twin sisters who live on a narrow boat in Oxford and work in the bindery at the university press. Ambitious, intelligent Peggy has been told for most of her life that her job is to bind the books, not read them--but as she folds and gathers pages, her mind wanders to the opposite side of Walton Street, where the female students of Oxford's Somerville College have a whole library at their fingertips. Maude, meanwhile, wants nothing more than what she has: to spend her days folding the pages of books in the company of the other bindery girls. She is extraordinary but vulnerable, and Peggy feels compelled to watch over her. Then refugees arrive from the war-torn cities of Belgium, sending ripples through the Oxford community and the sisters' lives.

Peggy begins to see the possibility of another future where she can educate herself and use her intellect, not just her hands. But as war and illness reshape her world, her love for a Belgian soldier--and the responsibility that comes with it--threaten to hold her back. *The Bookbinder* is a story about knowledge--who creates it, who can access it, and what truths get lost in the process.

"Authentic period details and intriguing glimpses into the bookbinding process add to Williams's portrayal of resilient women. This would make a riveting costume drama for the large or small screen." --**Publishers Weekly**



OCTOBER 3, 2024

Five-Star Stranger by Kat Tang

\$27.00 Book club price: \$24.30 - 9781668050149 Hardcover, 240 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781668050149>

Would you hire someone to be the best man at your wedding? Your stand-in brother? Your husband?

In an age where online ratings are all-powerful, *Five-Star Stranger* follows the adventures of a top-rated man on the Rental Stranger app--a place where users can hire a pretend fiancé, a wingman, or an extra mourner for a funeral. Referred to only as Stranger, the narrator navigates New York City under the guise of characters he plays, always maintaining a professional distance from his clients.

But, when a nosy patron threatens to upend his long-term role as father to a young girl, Stranger begins to reckon with his attachment to his pretend daughter, her mother, and his own fraught past. Now, he must confront the boundaries he has drawn and explore the legacy of abandonment that shaped his life.



Five-Star Stranger is a strikingly vivid novel about the commodification of relationships in a gig economy, isolation in a hyperconnected world, and the risk of asking for what we want from those who cannot give. This is the story of a man who finds out who he is by being anyone but himself.

Living Large Picks: July - December

NOVEMBER 26, 2024

Here One Moment by Liane Moriarty

\$30.00 Book club price: \$27.00 - 9780593798607 Hardcover, 512 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780593798607>

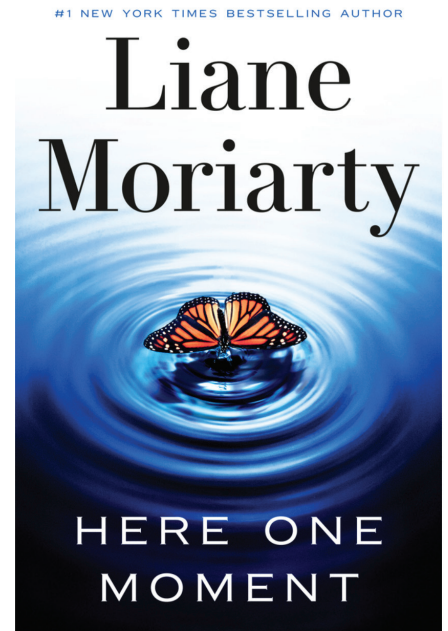
If you knew your future, would you try to fight fate?

Aside from a delay, there will be no problems. The flight will be smooth, it will land safely. Everyone who gets on the plane will get off. But almost all of them will be forever changed. Because on this ordinary domestic flight, something extraordinary happens. People learn how and when they are going to die. For some, their death is far in the future--age 103!--and they laugh. But for six passengers, their predicted deaths are not far away at all.

How do they know this? There were ostensibly more interesting people on the flight (the bride and groom, the jittery, possibly famous woman, the giant Hemsworth-esque guy who looks like an off-duty superhero, the frazzled, gorgeous flight attendant) but none would become as famous as "The Death Lady." Not a single passenger or crew member will later recall noticing her board the plane. She wasn't exceptionally old or young, rude or polite. She wasn't drunk or nervous or pregnant. Her appearance and demeanor were unremarkable. But what she did on that flight was truly remarkable.

A few months later, one passenger dies exactly as she predicted. Then two more passengers die, again, as she said they would. Soon no one is thinking this is simply an entertaining story at a cocktail party.

If you were told you only had a certain amount of time left to live, would you do things differently? Would you try to dodge your destiny?



Our Living Large club will NOT meet in December as it coincides with Christmas Eve. Instead, we'll once again host your ALL CLUBS HOLIDAY PARTY on Tuesday, December 17th.

January - June 2025 book club picks will be available in December.

As always, we thank you for being the secret ingredient that makes all our book club gatherings so much fun!

We'll see you on Main Street!

